

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-59. (cancelled)

60. (new) A multiple coupling lock system for an environmentally sealed filling or refilling of a first container or a first hose, comprising:

5 a first coupling lock having an opening area which is opened;

a first flexible conveyance unit having a first end connected to said first coupling lock in an environmentally sealed manner;

10 a second end of the first flexible conveyance unit connecting to a second coupling lock in an environmentally sealed manner, said opening area of said first coupling lock being sufficiently large when opened to allow said second coupling lock to pass therethrough; and

said second coupling lock connecting in an environmentally sealed manner to said first container or first hose.

15 61. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 60 wherein a second flexible conveyance unit is connected in environmentally sealed manner at a first end to said first coupling lock opposite said first flexible conveyance unit and a second end of said second flexible conveyance unit being connected in an environmentally sealed manner to a third coupling lock connectible with said second coupling lock, said third coupling lock being
20 connected in an environmentally sealed manner to a second container or second hose.

62. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 61 wherein a fourth coupling lock connects said second conveyance unit first end to said first coupling lock by docking with said first coupling lock.

25 63. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 62 wherein said fourth coupling lock has an opening area which when opened is sufficiently large to allow said second coupling lock to pass therethrough.

64. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 60 wherein the first coupling lock opening area is closable by collapsing the first coupling lock.

5 65. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 63 wherein said first and fourth coupling locks have opening areas are openable and closeable.

66. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 60 wherein said first flexible conveyance unit comprises a hose.

10 67. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 60 wherein the first coupling lock comprises at least a first flexible band with at least one locking element on its inner side and at least a second flexible band with at least one second locking element on its inner side which is complementary to the first locking element which enables reversible, tight closure, and an upper side of the first band having at least a third locking element and an upper side
15 of the second band having at least a fourth locking element.

68. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 67 wherein the first coupling lock comprises at least a fifth and sixth locking elements on at least one outer side of the first and second bands, respectively.

20 69. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 68 wherein the first coupling lock comprises a locking lid containing at least a seventh and eighth locking elements complementary to the third and fourth locking elements of the upper sides of the first and second bands, the seventh and eighth locking elements being connectible to the third and fourth locking elements to form a temporary cover for a selection slit of the first and second
25 bands when the inner sides of the first and second bands are connected with each other via a reciprocal reaction between the first and second locking elements.

70. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 69 wherein the locking lid is connected with the first or second band.

71. (new) A multiple coupling lock system according to claim 69 wherein the locking lid comprises at least one operating handle.

72. (new) A multiple coupling lock system according to claim 67 wherein the first or second bands comprise at least one operating handle.

5 73. (new) A multiple coupling lock system according to claim 60 wherein the first coupling lock comprises first and second bands and the first container or first hose connects at an opening edge of the first coupling lock with the first and second bands.

10 74. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 60 wherein the first coupling lock comprises first and second bands and wherein at least an inner side or an outer side of the first or second bands comprises a bonding or adhesive layer.

15 75. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 60 wherein the first coupling lock comprises substantially rigid frame bands and joint elements, immediately adjacent frame bands being connected with each other to form a folding frame so that inner sides of adjacent or opposite frame bands can be folded one on top of the other to form a lock.

20 76. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein the folding frame comprises x frame bands and x joint elements where $x = 2n$, and n is an integer number equal to or higher than 2.

77. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein the joint elements comprise hinges, film hinges, or elastic materials.

25 78. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 60 wherein the first coupling lock comprises a folding frame comprising six frame bands and six joint elements, a first pair of adjacent frame bands connected via a first joint element, a second pair of adjacent frame bands connected via second joint element, and a third pair of non-adjacent frame bands which are not directly connected via a joint element.

30 79. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 78 wherein the inner side of the first frame band of the first pair and an inner side of the first

frame band of the second pair can both be turned towards an inner side of the first frame band of the third pair, and an inner side of the second frame band of the first pair and an inner side of the second frame band of the second pair can both be turned towards an inner side of the second frame band of the third pair to form a sealed locking slit.

80. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein the folding frame comprises a sealing lip in an area of at least one of its surrounding edges.

81. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 78 wherein at least one spacer is provided on an outer side of the first or the second frame band of the first or second pair of frame bands.

82. (new) A multiple coupling lock system according to claim 75 wherein the inner sides comprise a first and second locking rails.

83. (new) A multiple coupling system of claim 75 wherein first or second locking rails extend to inner sides of the joint elements and are positioned on the joint elements, or can be attached to the joint elements.

84. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 83 wherein the first locking rail comprises a groove and the second locking rail comprises a clip complementary to the groove.

85. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 83 wherein the first locking rail is positioned at least in sections on the inner side of adjacent first and second frame bands, and the second locking rail is positioned at least in sections on inner sides of adjacent third and fourth frame bands.

86. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein the first coupling lock comprises at least two operating handles.

87. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 86 wherein at least one of the operating handles has at least one centering or clamping unit for interaction with another coupling lock to which it is docking.

88. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein the frame is made of a single piece.

89. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein at least one of the frame bands on an upper side comprises at least one locking element.

5 90. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 89 wherein at least one first locking element is provided comprising a groove or a spring.

91. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 89 wherein the first coupling lock comprises at least one locking element on an outer side of at least one frame band.

10 92. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 90 wherein the first coupling lock comprises at least one locking lid with at least a third locking element substantially complementary to the first locking element, and a fourth locking element substantially complementary to a second locking element so that the locking lid covers a locking slit of the folding frame when the coupling lock is closed.

15 93. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 92 wherein the locking lid is connected with a frame band via a hinge, a film hinge, or a flexible connecting element.

94. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 92 wherein the locking lid is fitted with at least one operating or transportation handle.

20 95. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein the first flexible conveyance unit is connected to the first coupling lock in a sealed manner with the frame bands or the joint elements.

25 96. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein at least an inner side or an upper side of at least one frame band comprises a bonding or adhesive layer.

97. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein the first coupling lock comprises at least one first clamping element on an inner side of at least one frame band, at least one first clamping opening or first latching element in one inner side of at least one frame band so that the first

clamping element is latchable into the first clamping opening when the folding frame is closed.

5 98. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 78 wherein first and second frame bands of the third pair of frame bands each comprise at least one clamping device which correspond to each other for reversibly connecting the frame bands when the coupling lock is in a closed state.

99. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 78 wherein the first coupling lock comprises at least one handle on an outer side of at least two of the frame bands.

10 100. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 99 wherein the handle comprises at least one handle bar attached to an outer side of a frame band containing at least one second clamping opening, at least one first handle element, at least one second handle element, and at least one first and at least one second hinge.

15 101. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein at least one joint joins adjacent frame bands at an angle.

102. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 75 wherein the coupling lock comprises at least one notch positioned at least along a section of an inner side of at least one joint.

20 103. (new) A multiple coupling lock system of claim 60 wherein the second coupling lock comprises a closing flap with a first pipe connection, the closing flap being able to be brought to a closed position in which a first end of the pipe connection is locked.

25 104. (new) A method for an environmentally sealed filling or refilling of a first container or a first hose, comprising the steps of:

providing a first coupling lock having an opening area which is opened;

providing a first flexible conveyance unit having a first end connected to said first coupling lock in an environmentally sealed manner;

providing a second end of the first flexible conveyance unit connecting to a second coupling lock in an environmentally sealed manner, said opening area of said first coupling lock being sufficiently large when opened to allow said second coupling lock to pass therethrough;

5 providing said second coupling lock connecting in an environmentally sealed manner to said first container or first hose; and

 moving said second coupling lock through said first coupling lock while flexing said first flexible conveyance unit.

10 105. (new) A method of claim 104 including the further steps of providing a second flexible conveyance unit connected in an environmentally sealed manner at a first end to said first coupling lock opposite said first flexible conveyance unit and a second end of said second flexible conveyance unit being connected in an environmentally sealed manner to a third coupling lock connectible with said second coupling lock, said third coupling lock being
15 connected in environmentally sealed manner to a second container or second a hose, and connecting said second coupling lock with said third coupling lock by moving said second coupling through said first coupling lock.

20 106. (new) A method of claim 105 including the steps of providing a fourth coupling lock connecting said second conveyance unit first end to said first coupling lock by docking with said first coupling lock, and connecting said second and third coupling locks by moving the second coupling lock through the docked first and fourth coupling locks.

25 107. (new) A method of claim 106 including the step of providing said fourth coupling lock with an opening area which when opened is sufficiently large to allow said fourth coupling lock to pass therethrough.

 108. (new) A method of claim 105 wherein a suction is provided for transfer of medium from said second container or second hose to said first container or first hose or vice versa when said second and third coupling locks are connected.

109. (new) A method of claim 105 wherein said first or second containers or hoses are flexible.

110. (new) A method of claim 105 wherein upon connection of the second and third coupling locks a rinse is performed with a cleaning fluid
5 through the second and third coupling locks.

111. (new) A docked multiple coupling lock system for an environmentally sealed transfer of a medium between a first container or a first hose and a second container or a second hose, comprising:

a first coupling having an opening area which is opened;

10 a first flexible conveyance unit having a first end connected to said first coupling lock in an environmentally sealed manner;

a second end of the first flexible conveyance unit connecting to a second coupling lock in an environmentally sealed manner, said opening area of said first coupling being sufficiently large when opened to allow said second
15 coupling lock to pass therethrough;

said second coupling lock connecting in an environmentally sealed manner to said first container or first hose;

a second flexible conveyance unit connected in an environmentally sealed manner at a first end to a fourth coupling lock which is docked to said
20 first coupling lock, a second end of said second flexible conveyance unit being connected in an environmentally sealed manner to a third coupling lock connectible with said second coupling lock, said third coupling lock being connected in an environmentally sealed manner to said second container or second hose; and

25 said fourth coupling lock having an opening area which when opened is sufficiently large to allow said second coupling lock to pass therethrough.

112. (new) A docking method for transferring a medium between a first container or a first hose and a second container or a second hose, comprising the steps of:

providing a first coupling lock connected in environmentally sealed manner to a second coupling lock by a first flexible conveyance unit, an opening area of said first coupling lock being sufficiently large to allow said second coupling lock to pass therethrough;

- 5 providing a third coupling lock connected in environmentally sealed manner to a fourth coupling lock by a second flexible conveyance unit, an opening area of said fourth coupling lock being sufficiently large to allow said third coupling lock to pass therethrough;

docking said first and fourth coupling locks together;

- 10 moving either said second coupling lock or said third coupling lock through said first and fourth docked coupling locks for connection of said second and third coupling locks to each other; and

transferring the medium between the first container or first hose and the second container or second hose.